

## Representative Hans Dunshee

# Your representatives

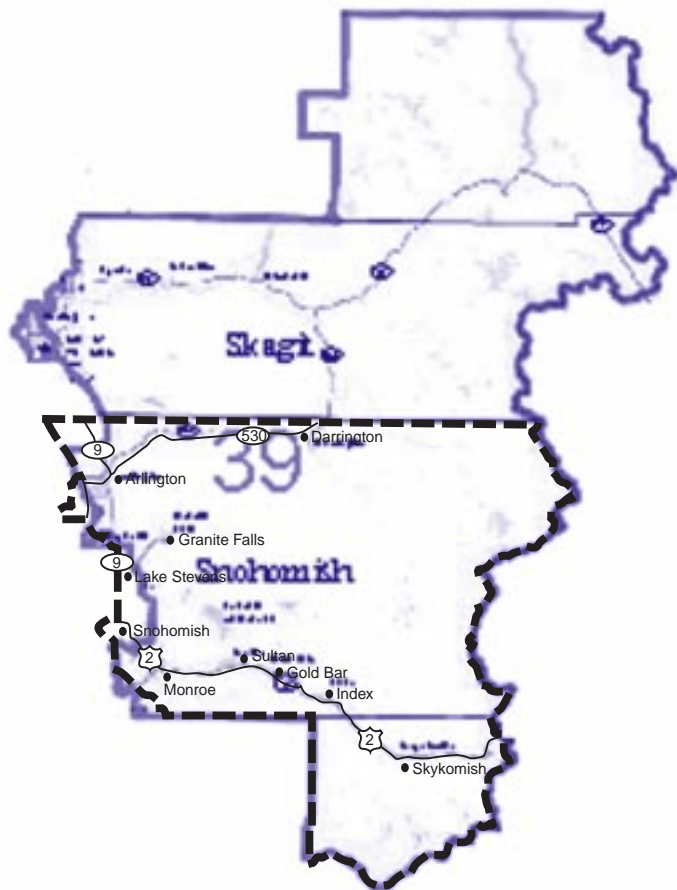
Redistricting has happened as mandated by the US Constitution, with political boundaries adjusted every 10 years to ensure equal representation. Because our area has grown so much, the lines changed quite a bit. So much so that thousands of you, and myself, will not be in the 39<sup>th</sup> District under the new maps.

Many people have told me this was unfair, but to me equal representation is much more important than whether I personally stay in the 39<sup>th</sup> District, or even the Legislature.

To see the new lines for the next election, visit the Redistricting Commission Website at: [www.redistricting.wa.gov](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov)

No matter what happens with redistricting, I'll keep working hard for all the constituents of the 39th District, as the lines are drawn now, until the end of this term. Call me if I can be of service.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon — or see you at the town hall meetings.



--- Current boundaries  
— New boundaries

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## 2002 Transportation Report

Representative  
**Hans Dunshee**  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



### Town Hall meetings

**Saturday, Feb. 23**

**Lake Stevens – 9 to 11 a.m.**

Lake Stevens High School  
113th Ave. NE

**Snohomish – noon to 2 p.m.**

Snohomish PUD Building  
807 Rainier St.



Representative  
**Hans  
Dunshee**

**39th District**

## 2002: Ending Traffic Gridlock

Dear neighbors,

Everybody I know says traffic gridlock is the No. 1 problem. We've got some of the worst traffic in the nation. Gridlock is strangling our prosperity and stealing free time that we should have with our families.

Inside this newsletter is what I know and believe about transportation:

- How we got into this mess
- Ending transportation welfare
- Solutions for traffic gridlock

I appreciate all the letters, phone calls and e-mails from folks who've taken the time to become informed and involved in transportation and other big issues the House of Representatives is considering. Without citizens like you, democracy couldn't work.

If you have any questions about transportation, or any other issue, call or write to my office. I read everything from citizens in my district and hope to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, and thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your representative.

Sincerely,

HANS DUNSHEE  
Representative, 39th District

### Keeping in touch

Hotline: 800-562-6000  
Hearing impaired: 800-635-9993  
Office: 360-786-7804

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### Address:

PO Box 40600  
239 John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

E-mail: [dunshee\\_ha@leg.wa.gov](mailto:dunshee_ha@leg.wa.gov)

Website: [http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d39\\_1.htm](http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d39_1.htm)

### Committees

Local Government  
and Housing - *Chair*  
Appropriations  
Agriculture and Ecology



# 2002 Transportation Report

## Ending traffic gridlock

*There's nothing more frustrating than getting stuck in traffic. It's time to unclog the highways and get our state moving again.*

### How we got stuck

It's no mystery why we've got some of the worst traffic in the nation.

More people + more cars on the same highways = traffic gridlock.

Since 1980, our population went up 43 percent, and the number of miles we drove skyrocketed by 88 percent. That is because of bad land use planning. As we spread out we use more miles of roads and can't use transit or carpools. Back roads like SR-9 become commuter highways with traffic they weren't designed to handle.

Sprawl costs us all time and money — it's the most expensive possible way to grow.

I am working on reforms that will make growth pay for it's self and to reduce the impact on our schools and highways. We can grow smarter and reduce traffic congestion.

For more about traffic, visit the Department of Transportation's website at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

### End transportation welfare

Any fix for traffic gridlock should include reforms to save your tax dollars and get things done faster.

A key reform is ending transportation welfare.

Right now, you and I subsidize fancy new roads in the middle of wheat fields. It makes no sense to siphon tax dollars from Snohomish, King and Pierce counties for highways where there's never a rush hour.

Ferry County gets \$9.45 in transportation projects for every \$1 in gas tax they pay. Where's the missing \$8.45 come from? Take a guess.

Transportation taxes raised in a county should stay in that county. It's time to end transportation welfare.



# Representative Hans Dunshee

## The costs of gridlock are clear

- The average driver wastes more than a week (53 hours) and loses \$930 from sitting in traffic. Gridlock also drains \$2 billion in productivity from business.
- Business groups have said traffic gridlock is their No. 1 concern, and they're worried we can't get the economy going if I-5 is a parking lot.
- Every day, gridlock costs us time with our families, time you can never get back.



## A public vote

The way to rebuild the public's trust, I believe, is through a public vote.

I also like an idea that Dave Ross of KIRO radio brought up. The Dave Ross Plan is simple and fair:

- If a county votes for the transportation plan, they get the new transportation projects and pay for them.
- If a county votes down the plan, they don't pay anything more — or get the extra highway projects.

## What will happen this session

I don't know what the final package will look like. I do know that I want:

- Less money leaving our county.
- A public vote to show we trust the people
- A real list of concrete projects so you can see what you get, pun intended
- Citizens in each county (or region) deciding their own fate.

I will make my decision based on those criteria. I'm sure the plan won't be perfect for our area, but compromise is part of living in a society. I'd appreciate your thoughts and comments to help me decide what's best for our neighborhoods — and for the entire state.

### The gas tax myth

A lot of folks have told me they oppose raising the gas tax to fund transportation solutions because the money goes to all sorts of stuff, not just transportation.

That's a myth. Our state constitution says that gas taxes can ONLY be used for transportation projects.

# 2002 Transportation Report

## Balancing the budget

*How should the state fill a \$1.2 billion hole in the budget?*

I believe we should make smart cuts — and not raise general taxes — to balance the budget.

Gov. Gary Locke proposed his state budget in December, and he offered a budget that made cuts instead of raising property or sales taxes. Locke did propose raising some money through sin taxes — on alcohol and gambling.

You can look at Locke's proposed budget here: [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov)

It's too early to say how the Legislature will balance the budget. There will be some services cut that will cause people pain. Services to children, the disabled and seniors are targeted for cuts. Services that prevent bigger problems in the future will get cut to balance the budget.

I'll scrub the budget for every efficiency I can find. It won't be easy. Hard choices must be made, and that's what you hired me for. It's not a part of the job that I relish, but still my duty as a lawmaker.

What do you think about balancing the budget? I'd like to hear your ideas.



## What do you think?

I'm interested in your thoughts and experiences with traffic. What should the state do to fix traffic gridlock? Do you have any ideas for reforms and solutions?

**You can contact me by phone, e-mail or regular mail:**

Hotline: 800-562-6000

Office: 360-786-7804

E-mail: [dunshee\\_ha@leg.wa.gov](mailto:dunshee_ha@leg.wa.gov)

Mail: Rep. Hans Dunshee, PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600